

## April 2010 Issue Development Challenges, South-South Solutions

### 1) Kenyan Farmer Uses Internet to Boost Potato Farm

The rise of social networking websites ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_social\\_networking\\_websites](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_social_networking_websites)) during the past few years has swept across the internet. The popular Facebook ([www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)) site alone has over 350 million users worldwide. In Africa, there are more than 67 million people with access to the internet – just over 6 percent of the population (<http://www.internetworldstats.com/stats1.htm>). And this phenomenon has even begun to penetrate and influence life in poor places with weak internet infrastructure. A farmer in Kenya, Zack Matere, has boosted his potato crop by turning to Facebook for help.

On his farm in Seregeya near Eldoret, Kenya, Matere used the internet to find a cure for his ailing potato crop.

"I cycled 10 kilometres to the local cyber café, Googled ([www.google.com](http://www.google.com)) 'potato disease,' he told the BBC, "and discovered that ants were eating the potato stems.

"I checked again and found that one of the solutions was to sprinkle wood ash on the crop."

Matere also used the internet to find a buyer for his rescued crop, and has been able to triple the price he gets for tree seedlings he sells.

Zack believes he is a bit of pioneer: "I think I am the only farmer in the area who uses the internet."

He uses his mobile phone to access the internet and it costs him about US 0.66 cents a day to do it.

This is a lot of money for small-scale farmers so Zack has a plan to tackle the cost. He will share the information he uncovers on the internet with other farmers in the community by posting it on local community notice boards.

He has noticed some important realities about how people he knows interact with the mobile web. He has found most people do much more with the Net than surfing the mobile web alone at home.

"The internet is quite an individual pursuit. But a notice board is more of a group thing.

"So if I post an item on a notice board on potato disease, for example, the community can read it, talk together and come to a decision."

One example of the kind of intelligence Matere is able to glean from the internet is reports of cartels deceiving farmers by buying potatoes in over-large 130 kg bags instead of 110 kg bags. Matere takes this information and translates it into Swahili and posts it on community notice boards.

Matere also has to fend off other people looking to use his community's water supply, which he has done by photographing interlopers with his mobile phone and then posting the photographs on Facebook.

"When they came before, I took photos of what they were doing, posted them on my Facebook page and was able to get assistance," he said.

"I got in touch with Forest Action Network (<http://www.fankenya.org/>) and they came back to me quickly saying they would help me protect the catchment area."

He has also discovered there are more profitable ways to make money for farmers.

"There is a lot of money in tree seedlings or bee hives. So if we can get these young people to use the land in an environmentally (friendly) way, they can get even more money than through farming."

"I have 400 Facebook friends and I think some of them can buy the honey."

Matere is philosophical about the future: "I am now seeing the practicality of the internet here in rural Kenya. The problem is I am the only one. That is why the notice board is important. All we need is a bit of relevant information to help us."

"Once it is made simpler and is more in the local language with more local content, people are going to access the internet here," he predicts.

#### **LINKS:**

1) A blog with news and tips on how to use the social networking tools for business opportunities. **Website:** <http://www.socialnetworking-weblog.com/>

2) Four stories on how social networking radically improved business prospects for some people. **Website:** [http://www.bnet.com/2403-13070\\_23-219914.html](http://www.bnet.com/2403-13070_23-219914.html)

3) A Business Week article on the good and bad of social networking for business. **Website:** [http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/aug2008/sb2008086\\_346094.htm](http://www.businessweek.com/smallbiz/content/aug2008/sb2008086_346094.htm)

4) Txteagle: A service in Kenya that is paying people to do tasks and translations with their mobile phones. **Website:** <http://txteagle.com/index.html>

## 2) West African Chocolate Success Story

A Ghanaian chocolate company has become a big success in the United Kingdom and shown how it is possible to develop and market a high-quality product grown in West Africa. While the chocolate bars are manufactured in the Netherlands, the cooperative that owns the company initiated the push into producing a mass-market chocolate brand - and shares in the profits.

The Divine chocolate brand is available in shops and supermarkets across Britain and is the product of the Kuapa Kokoo (<http://www.kuapakokoo.com/>) cocoa farmers cooperative. The Divine brand was launched in the U.K. in 1998 as the first Fairtrade (<http://www.fairtrade.org.uk>) chocolate bar aimed at the mass market. Previously, most Fairtrade chocolate was made for high-end customers.

Apart from the chocolate bars, the co-op also sells its cocoa butter to The Body Shop (<http://www.thebodyshop.co.uk/en/gb/index.aspx>), a chain of natural beauty retailers.

In 1997, at the co-op's annual general meeting, members decided to create a mass-market chocolate bar of their own. Ambitiously, they did not want to just be a small, niche-market chocolate bar. They wanted to take on the big brands. They set up The Day Chocolate Company in 1998 and received support from a collection of international charities, aid agencies and businesses.

The Chocolate Company is structured to have two members of the co-op on its board of directors, with one out of four yearly board meetings held in Ghana. As shareholders, the farmers also receive a share of the profits of chocolate sales. Britain's chocolate market is worth £4 billion a year (US \$6 billion) and the country has hundreds of chocolate brands, making competition for customers fierce. The Divine range of chocolate has been designed to match U.K. market tastes.

Ghana has an excellent reputation for the quality of its cocoa beans and has been growing cocoa since it was first brought to the country from Equatorial Guinea in 1878 by Tetteh Quarshie (<http://www.ghanaweb.com/GhanaHomePage/people/pop-up.php?ID=128>).

Kuapa Kokoo's success story has its origins in responding to the structural adjustment programmes ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural\\_adjustment](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Structural_adjustment)) which started liberalizing Ghana's cocoa market in 1993.

The lock the government had on selling cocoa to the Cocoa Marketing Company had been lifted. Now the opportunity was there for others to sell to the Marketing Company and some farmers decided to form a cooperative, Kuapa Kokoo – “the best of the best”. They wanted to get a better price for the cocoa and to improve working conditions and lives of the pickers.

The cooperative does all the processing of the cocoa and delivers it to market. One of the great advantages for the farmers is the honest weighing of the beans – something previous buying agents would cheat doing. By creating a more efficient and fair process, greater savings are made on the price paid for the beans and this is passed on to the co-op's members.

The farmers are also trained to do tasks like weighing and bagging the cocoa, removing the need for outside help. Every year the farmers receive cash bonuses based on the co-op's profits and any efficiencies made.

With this success, Kuapa Kokoo grew and now has more than 40,000 members spread over 1,300 villages.

The co-op offers various services to the farmers including a credit union to help with finances. There are also 33 Research and Development Officers employed by the co-op to oversee training and election.

The number of women farmers has grown over the years, from 13 percent to 30 percent.

Extra income-generating skills are encouraged for the women farmers as well. One project is to make soap from the potash produced from burnt cocoa husks. Women have also been given machines to crack palm kernels for cooking oil.

Comfort Kumeah, a 62-year-old co-op farmer, lives in the village of Mim in the Ashanti region. A former teacher for 39 years, she inherited 20 acres of land from her husband's family.

"Each farmer has a passbook to record weight and payment. In the whole of Ghana, only Kuapa Kokoo ... is certified Fairtrade," she told the Sunday Times.

"I was voted chair of the farmers' trust and national secretary for the union; once a year I attend a conference to vote on how the Fairtrade premium is spent. Last year we bought a palm-nut crusher and we sell the red oil on the market."

"Before, I was always cheated. Purchasing clerks would come and weigh the beans and you never knew if their scales were correct, as no one checked them. Some embezzled the money instead of paying it to the farmers."

"Owning this company has given cocoa farmers a voice for the first time."

Kuapa Kokoo sells around 1,000 tonnes of cocoa every year to the European Fairtrade market (<http://www.etfam.com/index2.php>). This has many advantages for sellers if they meet certain conditions. These conditions include health and safety requirements and democratic decision making. If they are met, the producers receive a guaranteed price for their goods and

long-term trading contracts. This means a stable price despite market fluctuations. With a stable price, it is easier to plan and save money.

Ghanaian cocoa has a good international reputation and trades at a higher price because of this. Cocoa once made up 66 percent of Ghana's foreign exchange, but is now down to 35-40 percent as the economy has diversified into areas like information technology.

Cocoa is usually grown on small family farms in Ghana. Farmers also grow crops like plantain to provide food for the family. Around 1.6 million people are involved in growing cocoa and its business in Ghana. Cocoa trees grow to 15 metres in height and take three to four years to start producing a crop. An entire year's worth of a tree's crop can make three large chocolate bars.

A tree can produce two crops a year. Each cocoa pod produces around 40 seeds.

"A cocoa farmer's life is hard," admits Comfort. "In the lean season, we have no income. Also, cocoa is controlled by climate. Drought followed by too much rain causes fungus and rot, and then every farmer is poor."

"I have saved money for my children's education but my own needs are few: clothes, soap and toothpaste. Generally, you know, women are strong. Last year more women than men were voted onto the Kuapa Kokoo national executive and now hold some of the most senior positions."

#### **LINKS:**

1) Divine's online shop. **Website:** [www.divinechocolateshop.com](http://www.divinechocolateshop.com)

2) An online shop with various Fairtrade chocolate brands for sale. **Website:** <http://www.simplyfair.co.uk/acatalog/Chocolate.html?icid=J158-11634392-071H&gclid=CMOlycDN8KACFUkrDgodjXDsEg>

3) How to make chocolate bars from the bean to bar. **Website:** <http://www.wikihow.com/Make-Chocolate>

4) Home Chocolate Factory: A website selling the moulds and other accessories for making chocolate products in small factories or at home. **Website:** <http://www.homechocolatefactory.com/>

#### **3) The Battle for India's Coffee Drinkers in Buzzing Economy**

A showdown in India over coffee is creating new opportunities. It is also demonstrating how the country is changing, with rising incomes in some places and great disparities in others.

Finding the right place to have a coffee and meet with friends for a chat is important to many urban Indians. And the fight is on for these customers.

Older establishments like the legendary College Street Coffee House in Kolkata ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College\\_Street\\_Coffee\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/College_Street_Coffee_House)) – owned by a cooperative society – compete with new rivals modelled on the popular American chain Starbucks (<http://www.starbucks.com/>). This fierce competition takes place in an economic environment of rising food inflation of up to 16 percent this year and economic growth surpassing seven percent.

Coffee is the second most popular drink in India after tea. Its consumption has been steadily growing over the years, rising from 50,000 metric tonnes (MT) in 1995 to 94,400 MT in 2008 (Coffee Board of India). Once mainly drunk in the south of India, the taste for coffee has spread around the country with the rise of fast-paced modern lifestyles. The caffeine (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Caffeine>) jolt of a cup of coffee is attractive to people on the move and working hard.

India also holds its own as a coffee growing and exporting nation, accounting for about 4.5 percent of world coffee production and the industry provides employment to 600,000 people. The state of Karnataka accounts for 70 percent of country's total coffee production followed by Kerala (22 percent) and Tamil Nadu (7 percent).

India has the domestic demand, and it has the product. And now a bitter battle for the nation's coffee drinkers is underway. The difference between what is on offer at the cooperative-run coffee houses and the newer establishments is stark: at the older places, service is old-fashioned – waiters in white suits deliver coffee and food to tables – with a no-frills menu on offer. Coffee comes in simple forms: black, white, cold, hot for eight rupees (US 0.18 cents). At newer establishments, coffees come in many varieties and permutations, flavoured and with added extras. Menus also can be varied and establishments can include things like internet access.

The appeal of the older establishments is price.

"It's good here because it's cheap," College Street Coffee House customer Arindam Choudhry, 19, told The Guardian newspaper. "We can't go to these new places. We are from the middle class only."

And turnover is brisk, according to manager, Deepak Gupta. "We serve up to 1,500 cups a day. Business is good."

Owned by the India Coffee House chain ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian\\_Coffee\\_House](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indian_Coffee_House)), a worker's cooperative society with 400 outlets across the country, the Coffee House was established in the 1950s with the mandate to serve cheap food and drink and act as a meeting place. It attracts workers, intellectuals and political activists. But with the huge economic changes in India over the past decade, traditional coffee houses are facing fierce competition.

In the state of Kerala, home to avid coffee drinkers, 15 of the cooperative's 50 branches are now losing money. In the capital, Delhi, a further 10 coffee

houses have closed. Things are so bad for these traditional coffee houses that the most famous branch of the Indian Coffee House has not paid its rent for years and is waiting to be closed by the municipality.

"The younger crowd seems to go elsewhere," said its resigned manager, Janak Raj.

In many countries, coffee houses have become essential tools for economic development. They not only offer a stimulating drink, but a place to hang out, meet friends and business partners, catch up on news and access the internet. This role in economic development can be found as far back as the coffee houses of Europe during the beginning of the industrial revolution: deals were struck and people could meet the like-minded to hatch business ideas.

Coffee houses and cafes also reflect the economic and social changes in Indian society. They have come to be status symbols, showing what economic power you have achieved. And as services and quality change, they show how the level of prosperity changes.

New competitors to the cooperative coffee houses' are offering a more modern environment to lure in a trendier crowd. Café Coffee Day (<http://www.cafecoffeeday.com/index.php>), which claims to be India's largest chain coffee shop, with the motto "where the young at heart unwind", has air conditioning, mirrors, comfortable chairs and posters on the walls for decoration. And the price is different as well: choco-frappes go for 95 rupees (US \$2.11). This price means the customers need higher incomes to afford to go there.

"McDonald's is the cheapest hangout and everyone can go there," said a customer, Sima. "This is much nicer and only a bit more expensive so we come here. But only a few people can go to Barista's."

The chain Barista's (<http://www.barista.co.in/users/index.aspx>) is 10 years old with 230 outlets. It is growing fast with 65 more new outlets opening this year. According to its head of marketing, Vishal Kapoor, Barista's does not simply offer coffee, but "an overall experience."

They bill themselves as "crème" cafes: places where salads and smoothies are on offer beside the coffee.

"It's very exciting what is happening in India," Kapoor said. "The classic coffee houses are part of an era that is ending."

"People use the cafes as places to meet for privacy. It is a kind of private space," says Ruchika, a bank worker.

Nonetheless, despite its success, Barista's is still too expensive for most Indians.



## LINKS:

1) 48 innovations in coffee culture: This eclectic mix of innovations, trends and tidbits on global coffee culture is sure to inspire any budding coffee entrepreneur. **Website:** <http://www.trendhunter.com/trends/coffee-innovation>

2) Watch a video report from the coffee houses. **Website:** <http://www.guardian.co.uk/travel/video/2010/apr/01/india-coffee-house-kerala>

3) Coffee Board of India: The Board focuses on research, development, extension, quality upgrades, market information, and the domestic and external promotion of Coffees of India. **Website:** <http://www.indiacoffee.org/login.php>

4) Practical advice and contacts on how to start a coffee shop. **Website:** <http://www.howtostartacoffeeshop.co.uk/>

## 4) Iranian Savings Funds to Tackle Loan Drought

For entrepreneurs around the world, acquiring finance to start or expand a small business has become harder and harder as the global financial crisis has bitten hard. Across the globe, people with good ideas or successful businesses that need funds to expand are finding the door closed by traditional banks.

As banks and governments have focused on reducing debt and building up cash reserves, it is small businesses and small-scale entrepreneurs – often without business or family connections – who suffer the most. Opportunities are being missed to create new jobs and enterprises and lift poor communities out of poverty.

In that climate, the search is on for alternative ways to build up wealth. In Iran, a new phenomenon has arisen to address the lack of bank loans for small businesses brought about by the economic crisis. Iran is suffering under international sanctions as well as outstanding bank loans exceeding US \$45 billion, according to the Financial Times.

The domestic banking crisis this has provoked has resulted in a tightening of credit for loans.

But in response, middle class Iranians are forming their own savings clubs to help each other with loans.

The savings clubs work like this: each member buys a share in the club costing around US \$2 per day (around US \$620 over 10 months). Each share makes the saver eligible for one loan during the year. For example in a club of 30 Tehran taxi drivers, every month four members of the club receive US



\$600 each in loans. The fund lasts 10 months and each member is guaranteed one loan per share.

"It is a savings fund and doesn't have the uncertainty of the banking system, which might or might not give you a loan," club member Ahmad told the Financial Times newspaper. As one of the drivers, he has four shares and is eligible for four loans.

"My mother is also saving money in a fund of housewives among our female relatives."

The fund is managed by the head of the taxi agency and a driver who is a retired teacher. Both are trusted. "The retired teacher receives the money every day and puts a check mark by the names of those who pay. He is trusted by the head of the taxi agency, while other drivers respect him as an educated, honest man."

Savings clubs are also good for the local economy, helping people to be able to buy goods on loans they would never be able to purchase otherwise. Another driver used the fund to "buy the things we cannot afford under normal conditions, like a washing machine, for instance, for which we have zero chance to get bank loans."

Overdue loans by Iran's banks grew by 66 percent from last year according to Asghar Abolhassani, the deputy economy minister.

The Financial Times reported that an estimated 25 percent of bank loans are outstanding, making Iran's banking system technically bankrupt. International sanctions are also blocking the country's banks from accessing global financial markets for support.

"Stagnation has gripped many parts of the economy," said Hamid Tehranfar, the central bank's director-general for banking supervision.

Turning to savings clubs can be an excellent alternative saving and loans model, but it requires very specific trust guarantees in place to ensure the holder of the funds doesn't just take the money. For those who can't find somebody local they trust, there are a number of online social lending and fundraising alternatives for raising funds and borrowing money. These include Kiva ([www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)), which connects poor people looking for loans with people around the world willing to lend.

As the crisis continues and banks and governments hoard wealth for their own needs to pay down debt, alternative sources of loans will become ever more important for the poor.

**LINKS:**

1) Zopa: "Where people meet to lend and borrow money."

**Website:** [www.zopa.com](http://www.zopa.com)

2) Kiva: Kiva's mission is to connect people, through lending, for the sake of alleviating poverty. **Website:** [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

3) Betterplace: Started in 2007, Betterplace is an online marketplace for projects to raise funds. It is free, and it passes on 100 percent of the money raised on the platform to the projects. **Website:** [www.betterplace.org](http://www.betterplace.org)

4) Kickstarter: Kickstarter is a funding platform for artists, designers, filmmakers, musicians, journalists, inventors, and explorers.

**Website:** <http://www.kickstarter.com/>

## 5) Electric Bicycles Become Urban Transport Success

A money-saving way to get about has emerged in China: the electric bicycle. It seems an excellent solution to the travel needs of people in fast-growing metropolises. The bikes are good at navigating traffic gridlock, and since they are electric they do not emit air pollution, a big problem in many cities.

With urban populations ballooning across the South – and the world now a majority urban place – the challenge of moving people around economically and cleanly is a big issue. While turning to cars seems an appealing option for people who have raised their incomes, the resulting traffic jams and pollution are a major drawback. Gridlock (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gridlock>) is a daily reality in cities across Asia and Africa.

The success of e-bikes in China is striking: It is estimated there are four times more electric bikes than cars in the country, 120 million in all. According to the Electric Bikes website ([www.electricbike.com](http://www.electricbike.com)), the number of electric bicycles produced each year has grown from 200,000 eight years ago to 22 million in 2008. It is estimated to be a US \$11 billion a year business: a true Southern success story that is going around the world.

A typical electric bicycle has a rechargeable power pack, with a battery that takes up to four hours to charge and lasts from an hour to two hours depending on local conditions, like hills. The batteries can range from heavy lead acid models (around only 100 charges) to nickel metal to lightweight, long-lasting lithium batteries. The batteries range from 12 volts to 36 volts. How long a battery lasts depends on its energy retention ability, road and temperature conditions and the rider's weight.

And while some cities are turning to encouraging more peddle power with human-powered bicycles, this is an unappealing option in hot or humid climates. Who wants to turn up at work hot and sweaty?

In China, a highly competitive market of manufacturers has sprung up in the last 10 years to provide e-bikes for every taste and need.

China has a long tradition as a cycling nation: in the 1980s, four out of five commuters used bicycles. But that changed dramatically as people bought cars with their rising incomes.

In the capital, Beijing, rapid economic development and rising incomes have led to serious traffic congestion. There are over 4 million cars on Beijing's roads. The pollution in the city is very bad and has led to various campaigns to ban high-polluting vehicles.

The ensuing traffic gridlock means the benefits of having a private vehicle – the freedom to get around on your own – are eroded as a driver wastes time in long commutes. So, many have turned to the nimble electric bicycles.

One resident, David Dai, told the BBC "It takes only 10 minutes to ride my electric bike from home to work."

"If I took the bus, I'd have to spend time waiting for it, and then I could be trapped in a traffic jam. It could take me half an hour to make the same journey."

Competition is fierce in the electric bike market, with shops sometimes sitting side-by-side.

A manager of a Beijing electric bicycle store, Zhang Zhiyong, puts the success down to this: "Beijing is not like other smaller cities - it's big. If people ride their bicycles to work, they get really tired. If they drive to work, the roads are often congested," he told the BBC.

"But an electric bike is environmentally friendly and convenient. Promoting the use of these bikes would benefit us all."

And the price is a definite incentive: just 2,680 yuan (US \$390), while cars sell for thousands of dollars.

The electric bicycles are so successful they are now growing faster than cars in a country that has become the fastest growing car market in the world.

Some believe the bikes are just a stop gap before people get enough money to buy automobiles. But the bigger trend of growing urban populations and the ensuing traffic jams will ensure they remain a practical option to get around the gridlock.

## **LINKS:**

1) Electric Bike Website: Home to news and links to manufacturers. Also lots of resources on how to convert peddle bikes into electric bikes.

**Website:** <http://www.electricbikee.com/>

2) The Luyuan Electric Vehicle Company of Jinhua City in China has been making the bikes for 10 years. They come fully equipped with lights, baskets, fenders and in many colours.

**Website:** [http://en.luyuan.cn/?gclid=CJXu\\_tr576ACFclr4wodG1GsGQ](http://en.luyuan.cn/?gclid=CJXu_tr576ACFclr4wodG1GsGQ)

3) Empowered Ebikes: An online retailer of e-bikes specializing in urban commuters. **Website:** <http://www.empowerdebikes.com/index.php>

4) Made-in-China.com: A large list of e-bike manufacturers in China and how to contact the dealers and manufacturers. **Website:** <http://www.made-in-china.com/products-search/hot-china-products/E-bike.html>

5) Pedego: An American company making high-end e-bikes. **Website:** <http://www.pedegoelectricbikes.com/index.php>

## **Window on the World**

### **Books**

*Tourism and Poverty Reduction: Pathways to Prosperity* by Jonathan Mitchell and Caroline Ashley, Publisher: Earthscan. **Website:** <http://www.earthscan.co.uk/?TabId=92842&v=497073>

*The Violence of Financial Capitalism* by Christian Marazzi, Publisher: MIT Press. **Website:** <http://mitpress.mit.edu>

*Bonfire of Illusions: The Twin Crises of the Liberal World* by Alex Callinicos, Publisher: John Wiley and Sons. **Website:** [www.politybooks.com](http://www.politybooks.com)

*In the Shadow of Slavery: Africa's Botanical Legacy in the Atlantic World* by Judith A. Carney and Richard Nicholas Rosomoff, Publisher: University of California Press. **Website:** <http://www.ucpress.edu/books/pages/11239.php>

*Democracy and Other Neoliberal Fantasies* by Jodi Dean, Publisher: Duke University Press. **Website:** [www.combinedacademic.co.uk](http://www.combinedacademic.co.uk)

*Technocapitalism: A Critical Perspective on Technological Innovation and Corporatism* by Luis Suarez-Villa, Publisher: Temple University Press. **Website:** [www.combinedacademic.co.uk](http://www.combinedacademic.co.uk)

*Terrorism and the Economy: How the War on Terror is Bankrupting the World* by Loretta Napoleoni, Publisher: Seven Stories Press. Explores how terrorist finances and the US responses to 9/11 have contributed to the current global financial crisis. **Website:** [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com)

*The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between the Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World* by Jacqueline Novogratz, Publisher: Acumen Fund. A personal memoir of a woman who has spent her life on a quest to understand global poverty and to find powerful new ways of tackling it. **Website:** <http://www.acumenfund.org/bluesweater/>

*Globalization and Competition: Why Some Emergent Countries Succeed while Others Fall Behind* by Luiz Carlos Bresser Pereira, Publisher: Cambridge University Press. **Website:**

[http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12\\_GACL.htm](http://www.networkideas.org/book/jan2010/bk12_GACL.htm)

*State of the World 2010: Transforming Cultures from Consumerism to Sustainability* by Erik Assadourian & Staff, Publisher: Worldwatch Institute, 2010. In *State of the World 2010*, 60 renowned researchers and practitioners describe how we can harness the world's leading institutions—education, the media, business, governments, traditions, and social movements—to reorient cultures toward sustainability. **Website:** <http://www.worldwatch.org/sow10>

*China: And the End of Poverty in Africa – Towards Mutual Benefit?* by Penny Davis, Publisher: Diakonia and the European Network on Debt and Development. The purpose of this report is to contribute to an increased knowledge and understanding of China's role in Africa. The report explores Chinese views on China's role as an important player in development policies and what responses China has to concerns expressed by external stakeholders about the increased Chinese cooperation with Africa. **Website:** [http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats\\_New/Reports/Kinarapport\\_A4.pdf](http://www.eurodad.org/uploadedFiles/Whats_New/Reports/Kinarapport_A4.pdf)

## **Papers**

*African Poverty is Falling...Much Faster than You Think!* by Xavier Sala-i-Martin and Maxim Pinkovskiy, Publisher: The National Bureau of Economic Research. The conventional wisdom that Africa is not reducing poverty is wrong. African poverty is falling and is falling rapidly, and if present trends continue, the poverty Millennium Development Goal of halving the proportion of people with incomes less than one dollar a day will be achieved on time. **Website:** <http://www.nber.org/papers/w15775>

*The Emerging Middle Class in Developing Countries* Publisher: OECD.

**Website:**

<http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmmp8lncrns-en>  
(PDF - 2.09 mb)

*Trends in South African Income Distribution and Poverty since the Fall of Apartheid* Publisher: OECD. **Website:**

<http://www.oecdilibrary.org/oecd/content/workingpaper/5kmms0t7p1ms-en>  
(PDF - 1 mb)

*The BRICSAM Countries and Changing World Economic Power: Scenarios to 2050* by Manmohan Agarwal, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. Africa and Mexico has the potential to change the balance of economic power in the world. This paper analyzes this potential building on developments in these economies over the past four decades in the context of the evolution of the

world economy. **Website:**

[http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_39-web-1.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_39-web-1.pdf)

*The Implications of China's Ascendancy for Africa* by Hany Besada, Publisher: The Centre for International Governance Innovation. Working Paper: Shifting Global Power. This paper examines the extent to which China's engagement with Africa has produced mutual benefits for both and whether Africa is reaping the necessary benefits required for poverty alleviation and economic development. **Website:**

[http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper\\_40-web.pdf](http://www.cigionline.com/sites/default/files/Paper_40-web.pdf)

*The MDGs and Beyond: Pro-Poor Policy in a Changing World* by Andy Summer and Claire Melamed, Publisher: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. **Website:**

<http://www.pelicanweb.org/solisustv06n03page5sumnermelamed.html>

### **From the Web**

*China now leading world out of recession, says OECD Economic Surveys: China 2010.* Already the world's second largest economy, China could well overtake the United States to become the leading producer of manufactured goods in the next five to seven years. **Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_34571\\_44495047\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_37443,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/7/0,3343,en_2649_34571_44495047_1_1_1_37443,00.html)

*Africa begins to make poverty history: US economists challenge conventional view that the continent is a basket case* **Website:**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/business/2010/mar/03/africa-makes-poverty-history>

*Triple Crisis Blog: Global Perspectives on Finance, Development and Environment* **Website:** <http://triplecrisis.com/>

*Where Western business sees 'risk', Chinese entrepreneurs see opportunity* by Dr Jing Gu. Dr Gu and her China based team from the China-Africa Business Council (CABC) and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS) have had direct access to private Chinese companies working in Africa, including 100 in-depth interviews with Chinese firms and business associations and officials in both China and Africa. **Website:**

<http://www.ids.ac.uk/go/news/where-western-business-sees-risk-chinese-entrepreneurs-see-opportunity>

---

## **2010**

### **April**

#### **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Carbon Trade China 2010**

Beijing, China (15-16 April 2010)

Carbon Trade came out in response to the Kyoto Protocol, Signed in Kyoto, Japan, by 180 countries in December 1997, effective from 2005 and run out in 2012. During the last three years, 1899 registered CDM projects has been

producing 352,218,246 ton issuance CERs. To keep the process on the line, there is an urgent need for a new climate protocol. Under this urgency, the COP15 is the last time for the parties of UNFCCC to meet on a government level before the Kyoto Protocol is renewed.

**Website:** <http://www.chinacarbontrade.com.cn/>

### **MIT Sustainability Summit 2010**

Cambridge, USA (23 April 2010)

All the technology and great ideas in the world cannot achieve sustainability by themselves. This summit focuses on the communication and collaboration necessary to make sustainability a reality. Attendees will learn and practice innovative methods for creating effective dialogue and working together during complex decision-making situations and multi-stakeholder engagements. The conference welcomes all attendees interested in sustainability, including but not limited to students, engineers, business leaders, non-profit leaders, academics, environmental activists, and public servants.

**Website:** <http://sustainabilitysummit.mit.edu/>

### **Buenos Aires International Book Fair**

Buenos Aires, Argentina (22 April- 10 May 2010)

The Latin world's biggest book fairs and a great place to catch up on what is happening in the world of ideas.

**Website:** <http://www.el-libro.org.ar/>

## **May**

### **Expo 2010 Shanghai China**

Shanghai, China (1 May to 31 October 2010)

UN-HABITAT AND the Special Unit for South-South Cooperation in the United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP) signed a Memorandum of Understanding establishing the Global South Creative Economy exhibition in the UN Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010.

The Global South Creative Economy exhibition will depict how the creative economy is an engine for better liveable cities with better lifestyles for all in alignment with the Shanghai World Expo 2010 theme: Better City, Better Life. Whenever these goals are achieved, people are at centre stage and involved in activities that use creativity as a main resource. The creative economy can be an important driver for economic growth and the agenda, represented at this exhibition, takes a broader view, asserting that long-term sustainable development can be achieved by effectively utilising creative assets.

**Website:** <http://en.expo2010.cn/>

### **ISCRAM 2010: Defining Crisis Management 3.0**

Seattle, Washington, USA (2-5 May 2010)

The ISCRAM 2010 conference-theme is Defining Crisis Management 3.0. Our aim is to look forward at the future of crisis management systems and consider how our rapidly changing socio-technical environments are affecting the ways we respond to crises in our ever more interconnected world.



ISCRAM is an international association on information systems for crisis response and management. It has been holding conferences in previous years as well. More information on the past conferences is available at [www.iscram.org](http://www.iscram.org). The ISCRAM 2010 Conference will include numerous refereed paper and poster presentations by practitioners, teachers, researchers, and experts.

**Website:** <http://iscram2010.parvac.washington.edu/>

### **Global Voices: Citizen Media Summit 2010**

Santiago, Chile (6-7 May 2010)

The theme of the meeting is "Next generation citizen media, public access and citizen participation." Global Voices Online will gather with a diverse group of bloggers, activists, technologists, journalists from around the world for two days of public discussions and workshops. A two-day internal meeting for Global Voices editors, translators and contributors will follow the public gathering. The event will be held at the Santiago Public Library.

**Website:** <http://summit2010.globalvoicesonline.org/>

### **2010 Energy Efficiency Global Forum and Exposition**

Washington DC, USA (10-12 May 2010)

Launched in 2007, EE Global is the only international event that focuses solely on energy efficiency from the perspective of all energy end-use sectors (buildings, industrial and transportation) and with coverage of all cross-cutting issues – finance, policy, technology and market transformation. Hosted by the Alliance to Save Energy, EE Global attracts executive-level leaders from all end-use sectors who are committed to putting energy efficiency to work in their businesses, communities and markets.

**Website:** [http://ase.org/section/\\_audience/events1/eeglobal](http://ase.org/section/_audience/events1/eeglobal)

### **Solar Maghreb – Developing Large-scale North African Solar Markets**

Algiers, Algeria (11-12 May 2010)

This event will bring together key players from the region – with particular focus on Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Mauritania – with global industry experts. The Maghreb region contains vast solar energy resources and the exploitation of these will be a critical factor in helping accelerate the region's economic development. The Maghreb countries have realized that tremendous opportunities exist and are beginning to diversify their energy markets away from an over reliance on oil and gas.

**Website:** <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=SP1005DZ>

### **Bioenergy Markets Africa 2010**

Maputo, Mozambique (11-13 May 2010)

The event offers an integrated solution of brand positioning, business development and face-to-face networking opportunities with senior decision makers. Sustainable bioenergy remains a key part of the global energy solution and East & Southern Africa represents a nascent marketplace. The growing demand for biofuels has sparked a green revolution in Africa and a frenzy of biofuel crop planting and investment. Despite these opportunities there are still several challenges that remain before the region can fully

benefit: Food vs. fuel – bioenergy needs to be produced in a sustainable manner, water availability – management of this resource is key, land tenure – developing best practice to balance the needs of investors with small farmers, scale of production – incorporating cooperative models, lack of infrastructure – investments are required to expand production. Knowledge base – new information systems with timely data on potential, water availability and agronomic techniques, life cycle analysis – applications must ensure GHG reductions, Policy - the need for a clear guidelines and incentives.

**Website:** <http://www2.greenpowerconferences.co.uk/v8-12/Prospectus/Index.php?sEventCode=BF1002MZ>

### **Challenge Bibendum – Rio 2010**

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (30 May to 2 June 2010)

Ever since the inaugural edition in 1998, Challenge Bibendum has set out to provide a forum which addresses road transport issues (energy supply and associated geo-political tensions, greenhouse gas emissions, road safety, urban pollution and traffic congestion) at all levels and has worked with a wide range of transport stakeholders to mobilise support to speed up the implementation of all possible solutions for a more sustainable road mobility.

**Website:** [www.challengebibendum.com](http://www.challengebibendum.com)

### **June**

### **Green Business Africa Summit and Expo 2010**

Nairobi, Kenya (2-4 June 2010)

The Green Business Africa Summit & Expo will bring to the mainstream issues around sustainability in the business environment as well as green corporate social responsibility (CSR). The Summit will provide business leaders at all levels with insight in developing and enhancing profitable and sustainable business enterprises and practices.

**Website:** [www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com](http://www.greenbusinessafricaexpo.com)

### **Footprint Forum 2010: Meet the Winners of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**

Colle di Val d'Elsa, Italy (7-12 June 2010)

The Forum Roundtables are a series of fast-paced, highly interactive conversations on critical topics, designed to move the sustainability agenda forward during a time of increasing resource constraints. The aim of the sessions is to overcome barriers to action, fill gaps in knowledge, and identify strategies that inspire further sustainability investments and bring about systemic change.

**Website:**

[http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint\\_forum\\_intro/](http://www.footprintnetwork.org/en/index.php/GFN/page/footprint_forum_intro/)

### **Sustainable Ocean Summit 2010**

Belfast, UK (15-17 June 2010)

Leaders from ocean industries dependent on marine space, services and resources will gather to develop cross-sectoral business action on Corporate Ocean Responsibility, as part of the global industry alliance on ocean sustainability catalyzed by the World Ocean Council. Sustainable Ocean Summit participants will include: shipping, oil and gas, fisheries, marine

tourism, renewable ocean energy, shipbuilding, marine technology, ports, dredging, seabed mining, seabed cables/pipelines, and others, as well as maritime insurance, finance and legal services.

**Website:** [www.oceancouncil.org](http://www.oceancouncil.org)

### **UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010**

New York, USA (24-25 June 2010)

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2010 will bring together leaders from all sectors to elevate the role of responsible business and investment in bringing about the needed transformation to more sustainable and inclusive markets.

**Website:**

[http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/2010\\_Leaders\\_Summit/index.html](http://www.unglobalcompact.org/NewsAndEvents/2010_Leaders_Summit/index.html)

### **International Water Week: Singapore 2010**

Singapore (28 June to 2 July 2010)

The Singapore International Water Week is the global platform that brings policymakers, industry leaders, experts and practitioners together to address challenges, showcase technologies, discover opportunities and celebrate achievements in the water world. Singapore International Water Week 2010, aptly themed Sustainable Cities: Clean and Affordable Water,

**Website:** <http://www.siww.com.sg/about-singapore-international-water-week>

### **The Green Enterprise World Forum**

London, UK (30 June 2010)

A one day conference and Exhibition dedicated to Green IT and Sustainable Computing. Hear from leading case studies on how they have integrated Green Computing into their working practices. Find out how Green IT can create competitive advantage and improve your bottom line, learn from the key stakeholders in the industry and network with leading platform and service operators.

**Website:** <http://www.greenenterpriseforum.com/>

## **July**

### **Investing in Developing Markets – The Role of Domestic Financial Markets in Low and Middle Income Countries**

London, UK (1 July 2010)

Developing the financial sector in emerging and developing markets. Now that investors are refocusing on emerging and developing markets, the time is right to discuss how to strengthen the financial sector and develop the financial markets in these economies. Investors and governments share an interest in exploring ways to improve investment flows and returns.

**Website:** [http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/developing\\_markets/](http://www.chathamhouse.org.uk/developing_markets/)

### **UN Development Cooperation Forum**

New York, USA (TBC July 2010)

The biennial high-level Development Cooperation Forum (DCF) is one of the principal new functions of a strengthened Economic and Social Council.

Mandated to enhance the implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs, and promote dialogue to find effective ways to support it, the DCF will be held every other year within the framework of the High-level Segment of the Council.

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/en/ecosoc/newfunct/develop.shtml>

### **TED Global 2010: And Now the Good News**

Oxford, UK (12-16 July 2010)

TEDGlobal 2010, held over the course of four days in Oxford, will explore the shocking undercurrent of good news just below the surface of today's troubling headlines. Headlines remind us daily of the political, economic and environmental woes facing the planet. But behind the scenes lie an amazing array of new ideas, new science, new technology, new social and political thinking, new art and a new understanding of who we are. When you put it all together, an entirely more hopeful view of the future emerges. Many of the remarkable architects of that future -- those who are pushing the boundaries of what is known and expanding the possible -- will join us at TEDGlobal 2010, from all over the world. We will make a full announcement of the program in the months leading up to the conference.

**Website:** <http://conferences.ted.com/TEDGlobal2010/>

### **August**

Have an even in August you would like the South-South community to know about? Then send details to [developmentchallenges@googlemail.com](mailto:developmentchallenges@googlemail.com)

### **September**

#### **World Water Week 2010**

Stockholm, Sweden (5-11 September 2010)

The Week provides a unique forum for the exchange of views and experiences between the scientific, business, policy and civic communities. It focuses on new thinking and positive action toward water-related challenges and their impact on the world's environment, health, economic and poverty reduction agendas.

**Website:** <http://www.worldwaterweek.org/>

#### **Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference**

Washington DC, USA (15-16 September 2010)

Making Cents International is organizing the fourth Global Youth Enterprise and Livelihoods Development Conference to take place at the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, DC. In just three years, this participatory and demand-driven learning event has become the "go to" conference for practitioners, funders, educators, policymakers, members of the private sector, and other professionals, who design, implement, monitor, evaluate, and fund programs and policies in this field. Previous conferences have convened on average 300 participants from 45 countries. The 2010 conference themes are: youth enterprise development; youth-inclusive

financial services and capabilities; workforce development; monitoring, evaluation and impact assessment; and adolescent girls and young women. Registration and the **Call for Proposals** process begins April 2, 2010.

**Website:** [www.youthenterpriseconference.org](http://www.youthenterpriseconference.org)

**Email:** Whitney Harrelson ([whitney@makingcents.com](mailto:whitney@makingcents.com); +1 202-783-4090).

### **Millennium Development Goals Summit**

New York, USA (20-22 September 2010)

With only five years left until the 2015 deadline to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has called on world leaders to attend a summit in New York on 20-22 September 2010 to boost progress towards the MDGs. [Read the Secretary-General's report](#), "Keeping the Promise", which serves as the basis for Member States' deliberations on an action-oriented outcome document for the Summit. It identifies successes and gaps, and lays out an agenda for 2010-2015. "Our world possesses the knowledge and resources to achieve the MDGs," Mr. Ban says in the report. Falling short of the Goals "would be an unacceptable failure, moral and practical."

**Website:** <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

### **October**

#### **Asia Microfinance Forum 2010**

Colombo, Sri Lanka (12-15 October 2010)

This milestone event will bring together leading microfinance practitioners, policymakers, financiers, academics and advocates from around the world to outline their visions and priorities, and explore new ideas, opportunities and partnerships. The BWTP network actively promotes the development of microfinance in Asia through research, advocacy, policy dialogue, information sharing and capacity building.

**Website:** <http://www.bwtp.org/news/?p=129>

### **November**

#### **Water Investment World Africa 2010**

Johannesburg, South Africa (8-11 November 2010)

The Conference is positioned to the decision makers in this sector. With over 340 million people in Africa without access to water and African governments' commitment to the Millennium Development Goals, a lot needs to be accomplished in a very short time in this sector.

**Website:** <http://www.terrapinn.com/2010/waterza/>

### **December**

#### **International Conference on Information and Communication Technologies and Development**

London, UK (13-16 December 2010)

**CALL FOR PAPERS:** The call for papers and sessions at ICTD2010 has recently been announced - with a deadline for submissions of **2nd April 2010**. The conference is the latest in the series of highly successful international

ICTD conferences held in Doha (2009), Bangalore (2007) and Berkeley (2006). It aims to provide a forum for researchers, practitioners and all those with interests in the use of information and communication technologies in development practice to meet to discuss the latest research advances in the field.

Building on the success of its predecessors, ICTD2010 will combine two days of plenary peer-reviewed paper sessions, with two days of workshops, panel sessions, discussion forums, demos and sessions in both Spanish and French. A particular feature will be the opportunity that it will provide for participatory involvement from people from a diversity of backgrounds. ICTD2010 is being hosted by the UNESCO Chair in ICT4D and the multidisciplinary ICT4D Research Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London's magnificent campus situated only 20 minutes from London's Heathrow airport.

**Website:** <http://www.ictd2010.org/>

## **2012**

### **Earth Summit 2012: Towards a World Summit on Sustainable Development in 2012**

Rio, Brazil (TBC 2012)

The United Nations General Assembly agreed to a new Earth Summit in December. The Summit will be in 2012 and will be hosted by Brazil. The themes are the Green Economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication, the institutional framework for sustainable development, emerging issues and a review of present commitments. This site will keep you abreast of all the developments and latest news.

**Website:** <http://www.earthsummit2012.org/>

## **Awards**

**APPLY NOW! World Habitat Awards 2010/2011:** The World Habitat Awards were established in 1985 by the Building and Social Housing Foundation as part of its contribution to the United Nations International Year of Shelter for the Homeless. Two awards are given annually to projects from the global North as well as the South that provide practical and innovative solutions to current housing needs and problems. Every year an award of £10,000 is presented to each of the two winners at the annual United Nations global celebration of World Habitat Day. Travel and accommodation costs are also met for one representative of each winning project to attend the awards ceremony. **Website:**

<http://www.worldhabitatawards.org/enter/apply.cfm?lang=00>

### **Happy Planet Index**

The Happy Planet Index reveals the ecological efficiency with which human well-being is delivered. The index combines environmental impact with human well-being to measure the environmental efficiency with which, country by country, people live long and happy lives. Learn about the ideas behind the HPI, how it is calculated, why we need it and what it can teach us.

**Website:** [www.happyplanetindex.org/](http://www.happyplanetindex.org/)

### **African Economic Outlook**

A unique online tool that puts rigorous economic data, information and research on Africa at your fingertips. A few clicks gives access to comprehensive analyses of African economies, placed in their social and political contexts. This is the only place where African countries are examined through a common analytical framework, allowing you to compare economic prospects at the regional, sub-regional and country levels.

**Website:** [www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en](http://www.africaneconomicoutlook.org/en)

### **Appeal for Help**

MobileActive.org are updating their database of mobile applications used for health, social development, agriculture, advocacy, education, civic media, human rights, and other civil society areas. If you have or are developing a mobile application used in any area of social development, please enter it in the MobileActive database. There is currently no comprehensive database of mobile applications for social development available but they are building it with people's help.

**Website:** <http://www.zoomerang.com/Survey/survey-intro.zgi?p=WEB228VQ3HV6D3>

### **MobileTech4SocialChange**

They have also set up a Wiki with the latest notices about upcoming events around the world.

**Website:** <http://mobiletech4socialchange.pbworks.com/>

### **Training Opportunities**

*Ongoing*

#### **Grameen Bank Microcredit Training Programs**

Grameen Bank, <http://www.grameen-info.org/training/>

### **Sustainable Tourism Criteria Announced**

The criteria focus on four areas experts recommend as the most critical aspects of sustainable tourism: maximizing tourism's social and economic benefits to local communities; reducing negative impacts on cultural heritage; reducing harm to local environments; and planning for sustainability. The GSTC Partnership is developing educational materials and technical tools to guide hotels and tour operators in implementing the criteria.

**Website:** [www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org](http://www.sustainableTourismCriteria.org)

### **Timbuktu Chronicles: A blog by Emeka Okafor**

With "a view of Africa and Africans with a focus on entrepreneurship, innovation, technology, practical remedies and other self-sustaining activities."

**Website:** <http://timbuktuchronicles.blogspot.com/>

### **OECD: Tackling the economic crisis website**



The global economic crisis is entering a new phase amid signs of a return to positive growth in many countries. But unemployment is likely to remain high and much still needs to be done to underpin a durable recovery. This website will track the recovery.

**Website:**

[http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en\\_2649\\_201185\\_41707672\\_1\\_1\\_1\\_1,00.html](http://www.oecd.org/document/24/0,3343,en_2649_201185_41707672_1_1_1_1,00.html)

## **The Grassroots Reporting Project**

One of our goals at AfriGadget ([www.afrigadget.com](http://www.afrigadget.com)) is to find more stories of African ingenuity. The Grassroots Reporting Project is our plan to find, equip and train more AfriGadget reporters in the field throughout Africa. AfriGadget's goal is to leverage the power of current and emerging technology such as video cameras, digital cameras, laptops and phones to bring quality content online and eventually on television. A combination of mobile phones and computers will be assigned to individuals in 10 African countries for the purpose of getting more on-the-ground reporting of stories of African ingenuity to the world. An AfriGadget editor will be in charge of identifying the best candidates for inclusion in the program. This editor will also travel to each country to train and equip the new AfriGadget reporters for the program.

This is possible by creating a network of field reporters who report on stories that meet the following criteria:

- Ingenious innovation that is new or a repurposing of existing technology in a new way.
- Interesting in the sense that the story captures the imagination of others, inspiring others to see solutions in uncommon ways.
- Practical ideas that solve problems in a demonstrable way.
- Entrepreneurs who are inventing new products or solutions.

**Website:** [www.afrigadget.com/](http://www.afrigadget.com/)

## **Global Knowledge Initiative**

The Global Knowledge Initiative seeks to build global knowledge partnerships between individuals and institutions of higher education and research. It seeks to help partners access the global knowledge, technology, and human resources needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all." With developing countries as a priority, GKI seeks to broker knowledge partnerships - partnerships between two or more people or institutions that generate new knowledge or transfer knowledge from where it is to where it is needed. GKI seeks to work across the entire ecosystem of actors that enable innovation, including academia, private sector, and the public sector. The organization prioritizes local development goals and demand-led processes for priority setting. GKI draws strength from its network of institutions involved in open and higher education, research, training, international development, and public policy. Its location at the nexus of these networks enables GKI to work toward our goal of enhancing the development and transfer of

knowledge, technology, and human capacity needed to sustain growth and achieve prosperity for all.

**Website:** [www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/](http://www.globalknowledgeinitiative.org/)

## **Jobs and Careers**

### **DevWire.eu - the Media Portal to EU Development Cooperation**

The idea behind this site is to support journalists in their EU development coverage. This single entry point provides a comprehensive source of news and background - relevant, up to date and reliable.

**Website:** <http://www.devwire.eu>

### **Evidence-Based Policy in Development Network**

This website aims to establish a worldwide community of practice for think tanks, policy research institutes and similar organisations working in international development, to promote more evidence-based, pro-poor development policies.

**Website:** <http://ebpdn.org>

### **Exporthelp - Promoting and supporting access to the European market**

The European Commission runs a database for the explicit support of market players in developing countries who want to bring their products to the EU market. The database gives an overview on the EU's preferential trade regimes established for developing countries as well as lists all tariffs, taxes and other requirements for goods imported into the EU.

**Website:** <http://exporthelp.europa.eu>

### **ilissAfrica - Africa Virtual Library on the Internet**

This web portal helps with tracking down relevant literature on a specific African topic or country. Users can search for books, anthologies, journal articles and Internet resources. Users are pointed to the relevant website or library where a book or journal can be found. The portal is a joint project of the University Library in Frankfurt and the GIGA German Institute of Global and Area Studies in Hamburg.

**Website:** <http://www.ilissafrika.de>

### **Development Executive Group Devex Networking Website**

Over 90,000 global experts can network and connect and learn about more than 47,000 registered projects. **Website:** [www.devex.org](http://www.devex.org)

### **New Website Offers Career Advice to Young Africans**

Set up by the Commonwealth Secretariat, [Africancareerguidance.com](http://Africancareerguidance.com) is aimed at providing career guidance to African youth and helping them to link with prospective employers. AfricaRecruit is a human resources organisation that provides skills training for African professionals in the Diaspora and on the continent. The website has an inbuilt email subscriber list for all its users and offers a searchable database of career profiles for job seekers and

prospective employers. It also offers skills and interest assessments and advice on CV and résumé preparation. It provides tips about interviewing techniques, as well as information on internship and volunteer opportunities, and entrepreneurial skills.

**Website:** [www.africacareerguidance.com](http://www.africacareerguidance.com)

### **African Diaspora Skills Database**

This database was compiled to provide an overview of qualified African Diaspora professionals with varied areas of expertise and experience. The African Diaspora contributes substantially to the social, economic and political development of Africa, and this database is set up to further mobilize this considerable potential.

**Website:** [www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database](http://www.diaspora-centre.org/NEWSLETTER/Database)

### **Aid Workers Network (AWN)**

Aid Workers Network (AWN) is an online platform for aid, relief and development workers to ask and answer questions of each other, and to exchange resources and information. AWN is registered in the United Kingdom as a charity. You will find discussions about a range of questions and issues on the AWN forum from aid, relief and development workers all over the world and representing a variety of fields, with new threads or responses posted daily. The forum is a great way to get in contact with other aid and development workers in your geographic area or working in a similar area of work.

**Website:** [www.aidworkers.net](http://www.aidworkers.net)

### **Bizzlounge**

Bizzlounge is where people committed to ethical behaviour meet, who want to establish and maintain business contacts in an exclusive and relaxed environment.

**Website:**

<http://bizzlounge.com>

### **Business Action for Africa**

Business Action for Africa is a network of businesses and business organisations working collectively to accelerate growth and poverty reduction in Africa.

**Website:** <http://businessactionforafrica.blogspot.com>

### **Business Fights Poverty**

Business Fights Poverty is a professional network for all those passionate about fighting world poverty through the power of good business.

**Website:** <http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com>

### **Business in Development Network (BiD)**

The BiD Network Foundation runs the BiD Challenge to contribute to sustainable economic development by stimulating entrepreneurship in developing countries.

**Website:** [www.bidnetwork.org](http://www.bidnetwork.org)

## **Zunia**

By Development Exchange, it offers news, publications and networking opportunities with the world's development community.

**Website:** [www.zunia.org](http://www.zunia.org)

## **Catalogue of Poverty Networks**

UNDP is organizing an online catalogue of Poverty Networks as a means to facilitate access to knowledge and sharing this to a wider audience in 189 countries. Poverty Networks are web-based platforms that provide space for sharing and disseminating development-related information and initiatives. Below you will find information on IPC's collaborating networks, which help foster dialogue between researchers, policymakers, civil society and multilateral organisations.

**Website:** [www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do](http://www.undp-povertycentre.org/povnet.do)

## **Connections for Development (CfD)**

CfD is a UK, Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) led, membership based organisation committed to ensuring that UK BME communities, and the organisations they are involved in, are supported in the process of shaping and delivering policy and projects that affect their countries of origin or interest – collectively "our world".

**Website:** [www.cfdnetwork.co.uk](http://www.cfdnetwork.co.uk)

## **Development Crossing**

Development Crossing was set up in 2006 by a small group of friends with diverse backgrounds ranging from business consulting to international development. In a world where the environment, corporate responsibility, and sustainable development are becoming increasingly intertwined, our goal was to create a site where individuals that shared our passion could keep up-to-date with relevant happenings in the world and connect with like-minded individuals. The idea behind Development Crossing is to provide a social network that brings together people from a variety of sectors, countries and professions to discuss corporate social responsibility and sustainable development.

**Website:** [www.developmentcrossing.com](http://www.developmentcrossing.com)

## **DevelopmentAid.org**

The one-stop-information-shop for the developmental sector, DevelopmentAid.org is a membership organization that brings together information for developmental professionals, NGOs, consultancy firms and donors.

**Website:** [www.developmentaid.org](http://www.developmentaid.org)

## **dgCommunities on the Development Gateway (now Zunia.org)**

dgCommunities, a free online service by the Development Gateway Foundation is devoted to knowledge-sharing and collaboration for people working to reduce poverty in the developing world.

**Website:** <http://topics.developmentgateway.org>

## **Diaspora African Forum**

This Forum exists "to invite and encourage the full participation of Africans in the Diaspora in the building of the African Union, in its capacity as an important part of the Continent". We will provide the vital linkage for Diaspora Africans to become involved in Africa's development as well as reap the fruits of African unity.

**Website:**

[www.diasporaafricanforum.org](http://www.diasporaafricanforum.org)

**Eldis Communities**

Eldis aims to share the best in development, policy, practice and research. The Eldis Community is a free on-line community where you can meet others involved in international development and discuss the issues that are important to you.

**Website:** <http://community.eldis.org>

**Enterprise Development Exchange**

The Enterprise Development Exchange links related communities of practice to advance sustainable poverty eradication. It is facilitated by The SEEP Network through the Value Initiative.

**Website:** <http://edexchange.seepnetwork.org>

**Food Security and Nutrition (FSN) Forum**

The FSN Forum is a global community of FSN practitioners. It bridges the knowledge divide among the different communities involved in FSN policies and strategies - such as academics, researchers and development practitioners - to improve cooperation and impacts; members in many countries across the world's five continents.

**Website:** <http://km.fao.org/fsn/>

**Global Development Matters**

Global Development Matters is designed to engage U.S. citizens and leaders in examining how rich world policies affect global poverty reduction.

**Website:** [www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org](http://www.globaldevelopmentmatters.org)

**GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development**

The GTZ-Communities Sustainable Economic Development are open to all practitioners, counterparts, research institutions, donors and interested consultants worldwide facilitating an inter agency exchange of experiences and best practices. This weekly updated website provides you with recent news and lessons learned from GTZ as well as from other development agencies and research institutions in the field of economic development. Its core is a comprehensive database. Participation in this open community is free of charge. However, registration is necessary.

**Websites:** Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/wiram-afrika/gtz-community/>

Middle East and North Africa: <http://www2.gtz.de/network/mena/open-community/>

Asia: <http://www2.gtz.de/assets-asia/gtz-community/>

**LED knowledge**

This website is an online space for sharing the experiences and resources of

people and organizations supporting local economic development processes at the local level. LED Knowledge is the result of a joint effort of the ILO-LED programme team based in Geneva, and the ILO training arm, the International Training Centre, based in Turin, Italy.

**Website:** [www.ledknowledge.org](http://www.ledknowledge.org)

### **Network of Networks Impact Evaluation Initiative (Nonie)**

Nonie is a network of networks for impact evaluation comprised of the DAC Evaluation Network, The United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), the Evaluation Cooperation Group (ECG), and a fourth network drawn from the regional evaluation associations. Its purpose is to foster a program of impact evaluation activities based on a common understanding of the meaning of impact evaluation and approaches to conducting impact evaluation.

**Website:** [www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html](http://www.worldbank.org/ieg/nonie/index.html)

### **TakingITGlobal.org**

TakingITGlobal.org is an online community that connects youth to find inspiration, access information, get involved, and take action in their local and global communities.

**Website:** <http://profiles.takingitglobal.org>

### **XING Group Microfinance Industry**

In this new XING Group, microfinance professionals from all over the globe link and discuss topics of interest. Use this forum to discuss financial technology, find employment, identify training opportunities and events, and share knowledge resources with fellow members of the microfinance industry. XING is an online networking tool to manage all personal contacts and to find interesting new business contacts. It's amazing how quickly it facilitates contact with key people.

**Website:** [www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179](http://www.xing.com/group-21391.0fc826/4466179)

### **AfDevinfo - African Development Information Service**

AfDevinfo tracks the mechanics of political and economic development across Sub Saharan Africa. They draw together a diverse range of publicly available data and present it as an accessible and ever expanding online database.

**Website:** [www.afdevinfo.com](http://www.afdevinfo.com)

### **Growing Inclusive Markets (GIM)**

The Growing Inclusive Markets Initiative has created a set of data, information and analytical products that will increase understanding of the markets of the poor, including existing opportunities and challenges.

**Website:** [www.growinginclusivemarkets.org](http://www.growinginclusivemarkets.org)

### **The Soul Beat**

The Soul Beat shares a selection of programme experiences, strategic thinking documents, and materials related to the use of mobile telephones for social change in Africa. If you would like your organisation's communication work or research and resource documents to be featured on the Soul Beat

Africa website and in The Soul Beat newsletters, please contact [soulbeat@comminit.com](mailto:soulbeat@comminit.com)

### **3D -> Trade - Human Rights - Equitable Economy**

3D promotes collaboration amongst trade, development and human rights professionals, to ensure that trade rules are developed and applied in ways that promote an equitable economy. 3D believes that the human rights framework provides strong tools for ensuring a more equitable economy.

**Website:** [www.3dthree.org/en/index.php](http://www.3dthree.org/en/index.php)

### **Business Planet: a new data map on Entrepreneurship**

Business Planet, an interactive Google map, now includes data on new business creation around the world. Measures of entrepreneurial activity are based on the number of total and newly registered corporations. Click on color markers to learn more about each country.

**Website:** <http://rru.worldbank.org/businessplanet/default.aspx?pid=8>

### **AiDA launches an Interactive Map**

AiDA is one of Development Gateway's aid management tools, which supports the aid effectiveness agenda by publishing information on development activities to help donors coordinate and harmonize their development efforts. With the use of an interactive map generated with technology from Google, development practitioners now have access to a geographical interface for information normally available through the AiDA Web site. Users can click on any country in the world and view a summary of the development activities that are taking place there.

**Website:** <http://aida.developmentgateway.org/aida/viewMap.do>

### **Trustive World-wide WiFi Access**

The reality of WiFi is usually a fragmented service with different hotspot operators having their own log in methods, billing systems and coverage restricted to certain countries or even cities. The Dutch provider Trustive decided to overcome these challenges in order to improve this reality for the whole Trustive community. Following 5 years of heavy investment and the conclusion of strong roaming agreements with 70+ hotspot operators in 65+ countries, Trustive is now able to offer a seamless service that is both reliable and competitively priced across a unified and ever expanding network of 65,000 WiFi hotspots in 65+ countries, including 350+ airports.

**Website:** <http://tinyurl.com/trustive>

### **Fellowship Opportunity**

#### **South-South Experience Exchange Facility**

Supported by Mexico, China, India, Denmark, Spain, The Netherlands, and the U.K. and now Colombia, the South-South Experience Exchange Facility is a multi donor trust fund that promotes the idea that developing countries can learn from the successes of other developing countries in overcoming similar challenges. In the past 12 months, the trust has given out 35 grants to



countries for learning activities ranging from working with at risk youth in the Caribbean to outsourcing IT services in Africa.

**Website:** [www.southsouthcases.info](http://www.southsouthcases.info)

### **Africa Entrepreneurship Platform**

This ground breaking initiative is created as a forum to showcase innovative ideas and businesses from Africa that have the ability to scale internationally, driving job creation and sustainable economic development between Africa and the Americas.

**Website:** [www.sacca.biz](http://www.sacca.biz)

### **Piramal Foundation in India**

Has established a US \$25,000 prize for ideas that help advance full access to effective public health care in India. The Piramal Prize is a \$25,000 Social Entrepreneurship Competition focused on democratizing health care in India that seeks to encourage and support bold entrepreneurial ideas which can profoundly impact access to higher standards of health for India's rural and marginalized urban communities. The award recognizes high-impact, scalable business models and innovative solutions that directly or indirectly address India's health-care crisis.

**Website:** [www.piramalprize.org](http://www.piramalprize.org)

### **The Pioneers of Prosperity Grant and Award**

This competition is a partnership between the OTF Group and the John F. Templeton Foundation of the United States, and promotes companies in East Africa by identifying local role models that act as examples of sustainable businesses in their country/region. It is open to businesses from Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Burundi and Rwanda.

Five pioneers will receive US \$50,000 to re-invest in their business. It is open to for-profit businesses that provide high wages to their workers and that operate in sustainable ways.

**Website:** <http://pioneersofprosperity.org/index.php>

### **African Writers Fund**

Together with the Ford Foundation, the Fund supports the work of independent creative writers living on the continent. The Fund recognizes the vital role that poets and novelists play in Africa by anticipating and reflecting the cultural, economic and political forces that continuously shape and reshape societies.

**Website:**

[http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr](http://www.trustafrica.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=91&Itemid=90&lang=fr)

### **Joint NAM S&T Centre - ICCS Fellowship Programme**

Centre for Science and Technology of the Non-Aligned and Other Developing Countries (NAM S&T Centre) and International Center for Chemical Sciences (ICCS), (H.E.J. Research Institute of Chemistry and Dr. Panjwani Centre for Molecular Medicine and Drug Research), University of Karachi, Karachi, Pakistan

[Click here for more information](#)

or contact:

[namstct@vsnl.com](mailto:namstct@vsnl.com),

[namstct@bol.net.in](mailto:namstct@bol.net.in),

[apknam@gmail.com](mailto:apknam@gmail.com)

### **Oxford Said Business School Youth Business Development Competition**

Open to youth between 16 and 21 across the world, the competition is run by students at Oxford University to promote social enterprise. A prize fund of £2,000 in seed capital is up for grabs. It calls itself the 'world's first global youth development competition'.

**Website:** [www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd](http://www.sbs.ox.ac.uk/oba/se/ybd)

### **US\$250,000 for Best Lab Design**

AMD and Architecture for Humanity have announced a prize of \$250 000 for the best design for a computer lab that can be adapted and implemented in third-world countries.

The Open Architecture Prize is the largest prize in the field of architecture and is designed to be a multi-year program that will draw competition from design teams around the world.

**Website:** [www.architectureforhumanity.org](http://www.architectureforhumanity.org)

### **PhD Plant Breeding Scholarships at the University of Ghana**

The University of Ghana ([www.ug.edu.gh](http://www.ug.edu.gh)) has been awarded a project support grant by the Alliance for a Green Revolution ([www.agra-alliance.org](http://www.agra-alliance.org)) in Africa (a joint venture between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Rockefeller Foundation, for the establishment of a West African Centre for Crop Improvement (WACCI). This is available to scientists working at NARIs, universities and international centres in West Africa. Women scientists are especially encouraged to apply for a fellowship under this programme.

**Website:** <http://www.acci.org.za/Default.asp?nav=Home&idno=10>

### **Institute of Social Studies in The Hague**

A collaboration between 25 international think tanks in international development, [www.focuss.info](http://www.focuss.info) is a search engine for indexing and social bookmarking online resources in international development.

### **Genesis: India's Premier Social Entrepreneurship Competition**

Is a social entrepreneurship competition aiming to bring together social entrepreneurs, students, NGOs, innovators, incubators, corporations and financiers and encourage them to come up with innovative ideas which are socially relevant and feasible.

**Website:** <http://genesis.iitm.ac.in/>

### **Echoing Green: Social Entrepreneurs Fund**

**Website:** [www.echoinggreen.org/](http://www.echoinggreen.org/)

### **Funding**

## **Commonwealth Teams up with Private Equity Firm to Deliver up to \$400 Million in Investment in Africa**

Small and medium enterprises across Africa are set to benefit from a multimillion dollar investment fund set up by private equity firm Aureos Capital (<http://www.aureos.com/>) with the Commonwealth Secretariat's assistance. The Aureos Africa Fund, launched in November following feasibility and due diligence studies funded by the Secretariat, will provide long-term capital and support for promising and successful businesses across the continent. Commonwealth Deputy Secretary-General Ransford Smith, speaking at the launch of the fund at the Marriot Hotel in London, UK, on 2 November 2009, hailed the fund's launch. He warned that investment in Africa was "critical" if recent development gains were not to be lost amid the current worldwide recession. "This fund has the potential to make a real contribution to Commonwealth countries in Africa, by helping ordinary businesses to reach their potential and boost much needed growth and jobs across the continent," he said.

### **Website:**

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/news/215560/021109aureoscapital.htm>

## **The Africa Land Fund**

The fund has raised almost €2 billion from an American pension fund to invest in African agriculture. The Africa Land Fund, created by the UK-based hedge fund Emergent Asset Management, wants to raise a total of €3 billion and is canvassing a range of investors. It plans to invest in agricultural land and livestock, including African game, which will be sold on to private reserves and safari parks. The fund also plans to develop bio fuel crops on marginal land, saving prime agricultural acreage for crops to feed people.

**Email:** [info@eaml.net](mailto:info@eaml.net)

**Tel:** +44 (0) 1428 656 966

**Fax:** +44 (0) 1428 656 955

## **Google.org**

While SMEs in rich countries represent half of GDP, they are largely absent from the formal economies of developing countries. Today, there are trillions of investment dollars chasing returns – and SMEs are a potentially high impact, high return investment. However, only a trickle of this capital currently reaches SMEs in developing countries. Our goal is to increase this flow.

We want to show that SMEs can be profitable investments. We will do this by focusing on lowering transaction costs, deepening capital markets to increase liquidity, and catalyzing capital for investment.

**Website:** [www.google.org](http://www.google.org)

## **Challenge**

InnoCentive (<http://www.innocentive.com/>) is a challenge to the world's inventors to find solutions to real scientific and technological problems affecting the poor and vulnerable. It is an open marketplace where anybody with a problem can post it, and rewards for effective solutions stretch up to US

\$100,000. They use rigorous intellectual property protection so ideas are not stolen without credit being given to the inventor. You can read more about the challenges here:

[www.rockfound.org/about\\_us/news/2007/0720first\\_seeker.shtml](http://www.rockfound.org/about_us/news/2007/0720first_seeker.shtml)

### **Global Social Benefit Incubator: A US \$20,000 Bottom of the Pyramid Scholarship**

Offered by Santa Clara University's Global Social Benefit Incubator, it selects 15 to 20 enterprises from developing countries and provides an eight-month mentoring process. This ends with a 10-day process in Santa Clara, where entrepreneurs work with their mentors.

**Website:** [www.socialedge.org](http://www.socialedge.org)

### **Shape Shift Strategies**

The complex challenges we face in our world today are demanding that we rethink our notion of leadership. How does our leadership – personally, in our teams and organizations - need to shift to shape an intentional culture? Shape Shift is a company providing leadership consulting services based on the need or opportunity that exists in your organization or the larger environment and the purpose you intend to fulfil by pursuing this path.

**Website:** <http://www.shapeshiftstrategies.com/main/home/>

### **Job Opportunities**

#### **Business Fights Poverty**

Many job opportunities on their website:

<http://businessfightspoverty.ning.com/profiles/blog/list?q=job+opportunity>

- [Africa Recruit Job Compendium](#)
- [Africa Union](#)
- [CARE](#)
- [Christian Children's Fund](#)
- [ECOWAS](#)
- [Find a Job in Africa](#)
- [International Crisis Group](#)
- [International Medical Corps](#)
- [International Rescue Committee](#)
- [Internews](#)
- [IREX](#)
- [Organization for International Migration](#)
- [Oxfam](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(1\)](#)
- [Relief Web Job Compendium \(UN OCHA\) \(2\)](#)
- [Save the Children](#)
- [The Development Executive Group job compendium](#)
- [Trust Africa](#)
- [UN Jobs](#)
- [UNDP](#)
- [UNESCO](#)
- [UNICEF](#)
- [World Bank](#)
- [World Wildlife Fund \(Cameroon\)](#)

